UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/671,101	09/27/2000	Norihiko Suzuki	1118.64780	6016

7590 01/15/2004	**EXAMINER**
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No. 09/671,101	**Applicant(s)** SUZUKI ET AL.
Office Action Summary	**Examiner** Lesa Kennedy	**Art Unit** 2157

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _9/27/00_.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) _1-35_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) _1-35_ is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on _27 September 2000_ is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

      1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _2_.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This action is responsive to the application filed on September 27, 2000. Claims 1-35 are

pending examination. Claims 1-35 represent a device directed towards monitoring a chat

system.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed
in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for
patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an
international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this
subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United
States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3.   Claims 1-2, 4, 13-16, 18-20, 22, 32 and 34-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as

being anticipated by Manabe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,584,494).

Manabe teaches the invention as claimed including a system and method for promoting

smooth communications in a chat system (see abstract).

As to claim 1, Manabe teaches a dummy client device for conducting a chat with a client

device though a chat server, the dummy client device comprising:

a determination part determining whether the content of the utterance monitored by the

monitoring part satisfies a predetermined sentence condition (col. 6, lines 36-49; Manabe

discloses that the keyword detection module compares the contents of the remarks with a

keyword list);

and a process execution part, when the determination part determines that the utterance

satisfies the predetermined condition, executing a process corresponding to the predetermined

sentence condition in accordance with the content of the utterance (col. 6, lines 36-49; Manabe

discloses that if a keyword is detected, the keyword-detection module executes an instruction).

As to claim 2, Manabe teaches the device of claim 1, wherein the predetermined sentence

condition is that a predetermined word or sentence segment is included in the utterance (col. 6,

lines 36-49; Manabe discloses that the keyword detection module judges whether a keyword

registered by a user is included in the remark).

As to claim 4, Manabe teaches the device of claim 1, wherein said determination part

determines whether the content of the utterance satisfies the predetermined sentence condition

only when the utterance is addressed to itself (col. 13, lines 50-65; Manabe discloses that the

keyword detection module consults a keyword database to determine whether the utterance is

directed toward itself).

As to claim 13, Manabe teaches the device of claim 1, wherein when said determination

part determines that an utterance from a client satisfies a predetermined sentence condition, said

process execution part sends out a message included in such an utterance to all channels of said

chat server (col. 7, lines 21-41; Manabe discloses that the user that uttered the keyword may

specify that notification be given to all users).

As to claim 14, Manabe teaches the device of claim 1, wherein said predetermined

sentence condition is that one or more of keywords that has been registered in advance is

included in the utterance (col. 6, lines 36-49; Manabe discloses that the keyword detection

module judges whether a keyword registered by a user is included in the remark).

As to claim 15, Manabe teaches the device of claim 14, wherein when said determination

part determines that an utterance from a client satisfies said predetermined sentence condition,

said process execution part sends out to said chat server, as an utterance, message information

that has been associated with said one or more of keywords included in the utterance in advance

(col. 14, lines 9-28; Fig. 15; Manabe discloses that user status information associated with the

detected keywords are reported to other users via the chat server).

As to claim 16, Manabe teaches the device of claim 14, wherein when said determination

part determines that an utterance from a client satisfies said predetermined sentence condition,

said process execution part sends out to said chat server, as an utterance, the content of a

document file specified by message information that has been associated with said one or more

of keywords included in the utterance in advance (col. 14, lines 29-35; Fig. 15; Manabe discloses

that the contents of text messages associated with the detected keywords are reported to other

users via the chat server).

As to claim 18, Manabe teaches the·device of claim 15 or 16, further comprising a

keyword registry table for storing a correspondence between said one or more of keywords and

said message information on demand, said determination part and said process execution part

referencing the keyword registry table (col. 6, lines 36-50; col. 7, lines 43-56; Manabe discloses

that the list of keywords are correlated to stored text messages based on the status of the user).

As to claim 19, Manabe teaches the device of claim 18,

wherein said keyword registry table further registers a specified channel of said chat

server in which the correspondence between said one or more of keywords and said message

information is effective (col. 6, lines 36-50; Manabe discloses that the keyword detection module

detects the name of the channel on which the keyword was uttered),

wherein when said determination part determines that an utterance from a client satisfies

said predetermined sentence condition, said process execution part executes said process as long

as correspondence of one or more of keywords contained in the utterance and a message

information is not specified as effective in a channel that is different from a channel in which the

utterance is transmitted (col. 7, lines 43-57; Manabe discloses that the text messages are issued

on the same channel as the source of the keyword utterances).

As to claim 20, Manabe teaches the device of claim 18, wherein when said determination

part determines that an utterance from a client satisfies another predetermined sentence

condition, said process execution part registers one or more of keywords included in the

utterance and said message information into said keyword registry table with them associated

with each other (col. 14, lines 16-35; Manabe discloses a correlation between a keyword list and

stored messages to be reported).

As to claim 22, Manabe teaches the device of claim 1, wherein when said determination

part determines that an utterance from a client satisfies a predetermined sentence condition, said

process execution part executes a process corresponding to the predetermined sentence condition

by cooperating with a back-end server connected via communication (col. 13, lines 24-34;

Manabe discloses a proxy terminal/server comprising the features of a back-end server).

As to claim 32, Manabe teaches the device of claim 22, wherein when said determination means determines that an utterance from a client satisfies; a predetermined sentence condition, said process execution part requests a calendar server that is managing a schedule of an individual specified by an individual name included in the utterance to check said schedule of the individual for a time specified in the utterance and sends out to said chat server, as an utterance, message information based on a response from the calendar server (col. 7, lines 58-65; Manabe discloses that a reporting module determines which messages to send based on a user's schedule status in a schedule list).

Claim 34 represents a program claim that corresponds to device claim 1. It does not teach or define any new limitations above claim 1, and therefore is rejected for similar reasons.

As to claim 35, Manabe teaches a chat system comprising:

a chat server to which a plurality of clients is able to access via a communication channel, and which provides a chat environment where an utterance transmitted from any one of clients is sent out to other clients (col. 13, lines 16-23; Manabe discloses a communication system connecting a chat server, a plurality of user terminals and a proxy terminal), and

a dummy client device including a communication part accessing the chat server as a client through a communication channel (col. 13, lines 16-23; Manabe discloses a communication system connecting a chat server, a plurality of user terminals and a proxy terminal),

a monitoring part monitoring the content of utterances sent to said chat server from said other clients (col. 6, lines 36-49; Manabe discloses that a keyword-detection module monitors the contents of remarks in the channel in which the chat client is participating),

a determination part determining whether the content of the utterance monitored by the

monitoring part satisfies a predetermined sentence condition (col. 6, lines 36-49; Manabe

discloses that the keyword detection module compares the contents of the remarks with a

keyword list),

and a process execution part, when the determination part determines that an utterance

satisfies the predetermined sentence condition, executing a process corresponding to the

predetermined sentence condition in accordance with the content of the utterance (col. 6, lines

36-49; Manabe discloses that if a keyword is detected, the keyword-detection module executes

an instruction).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5.   Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manabe et al. in

view of Hirakawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,664,126)

Manabe teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a system and method for

promoting smooth communications in a chat system (see abstract).

As to claim 3, Manabe teaches the device of claim 1 above.

Manabe fails to teach the limitation wherein the predetermined sentence condition is that a predetermined word or sentence segment is located at a predetermined position in the utterance.

However, Hirakawa teaches of a human interface system constructed by connecting systems containing a plurality of computers via a network (see abstract). Hirakawa teaches the limitation wherein the predetermined sentence condition is that a predetermined word or sentence segment is located at a predetermined position in the utterance (col. 24, lines 13-28; Hirakawa discloses classifying speech recognition results based on detecting words in a particular format).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Manabe in view of Hirakawa so as to accurately judge the contents of received utterances. One would be motivated to do so to ensure that the appropriate action is taken in response to a chat participant's communication.

Claims 5, 7-8, 11, 17, 21 and 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manabe et al. in view of Murakami (U.S. Patent No. 5,987,503).

Manabe teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a system and method for promoting smooth communications in a chat system (see abstract).

As to claim 5, Manabe teaches the device of claim 1 above, further comprising a message table for storing a correspondence between a message to be conveyed and its forwarding address (col. 7, lines 21-56; Manabe discloses a correspondence between messages to be reported and the report destinations).

Manabe fails to teach the limitation wherein the process execution part registers a

message to be conveyed and its forwarding address that are included in the utterance into said

message table.

However, Murakami teaches a system for displaying an electronic mail message related

to a statement submitted in an online chat session (see abstract). Murakami teaches the

limitation of registering a message to be conveyed and its forwarding address that are included in

the utterance into a message table (col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 4; Murakami discloses a system

that stores addresses of chat participants, and e-mail messages to be sent upon request to any of

these participants).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention

to modify Manabe in view of Murakami so as to have a means to link a message for delivery to a

recipient. One would be motivated to do so to ensure that the message is delivered to the correct

chat participant.

As to claim 7, Manabe teaches the device of claim 5 above, wherein when a

predetermined condition is satisfied, said process execution part sends out message information

to said chat server as an utterance (col. 7, lines 44-57; Manabe discloses that a reporting module

sends a text message based on reported user status).

Manabe fails to teach the limitation wherein the message information indicates that there

is a message to be forwarded to the forwarding address registered in said message table.

However, Murakami teaches a system for displaying an electronic mail message related

to a statement submitted in an online chat session (see abstract). Murakami teaches the

limitation of message information indicating that there is a message to be forwarded to a

forwarding address (col. 6, line 7-27; Murakami discloses that a statement is sent to chat

participants before the e-mail message is presented to them).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention

to modify Manabe in view of Murakami by employing notification means before delivery of the

messages. One would be motivated to do so to verify that the recipients are aware of incoming

messages so as to enable smooth communications between the chat participants.

As to claim 8, Manabe teaches the device of claim 7 above.

Manabe fails to teach the limitation wherein said predetermined condition is that a client

that has been registered in said message table as the forwarding address transmits an utterance to

said chat server.

However, Murakami teaches a system for displaying an electronic mail message related

to a statement submitted in an online chat session (see abstract). Murakami teaches the

limitation of a client that has been registered in said message table as the forwarding address

transmits an utterance to said chat server (col. 5, lines 14-26; Murakami discloses a user

connection table indicating active participants of the chat session).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention

to modify Manabe in view of Murakami so as to verify that the intended recipients are

participating in the chat session. One would be motivated to do so to ensure that the recipients

are aware of incoming messages so as to enable smooth communications between the chat

participants.

As to claim 11, Manabe teaches the device of claim 5 above.

Manabe fails to teach the limitation of the device further comprising a date and time

specified message table for storing a message to be conveyed, its forwarding address, and a

specified date/time associated with one another, wherein when said determination part

determines that an utterance from a client satisfies another predetermined sentence condition,

said process execution part registers a message to be conveyed, its forwarding address, and its

specified date/time that are included in the utterance into said date and time specified message

table, and wherein when a current time reaches said specified date/time, said process execution

part moves said message to be conveyed and its forwarding address that have been registered in

the said date and time specified table corresponding to said specified date/time to said message

table.

However, Murakami teaches a system for displaying an electronic mail message related

to a statement submitted in an online chat session (see abstract). Murakami teaches the

limitation of a date and time specified message table for storing a message to be conveyed, its

forwarding address, and a specified date/time associated with one another (col. 11, lines 49-61;

Murakami discloses the detection of a keyword indicating when an e-mail message should be

displayed at a user terminal),

wherein when said determination part determines that an utterance from a client satisfies

another predetermined sentence condition, said process execution part registers a message to be

conveyed, its forwarding address, and its specified date/time that are included in the utterance

into said date and time specified message table (col. 11, lines 49-61; Murakami discloses that the

e-mail messages are stored in mailboxes until the designated time is reached), and

wherein when a current time reaches said specified date/time, said process execution part

moves said message to be conveyed and its forwarding address that have been registered in the

said date and time specified table corresponding to said specified date/time to said message table

(col. 11, lines 49-61; Murakami discloses that the e-mail messages are displayed when the

designated time is reached).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention

to modify Manabe in view of Murakami so as to hold messages for future delivery. One would

be motivated to do so to ensure that the recipients receive their messages at a time when they are

likely to be participating in the chat session.

As to claim 17, Manabe teaches the device of claim 16 above.

Manabe fails to teach the limitation wherein when said message information includes a

file name of said document file and a special character string, said process execution part sends

out to said chat server, as an utterance, a part of the content of a document file having said file

name.

However, Murakami teaches a system for displaying an electronic mail message related

to a statement submitted in an online chat session (see abstract). Murakami teaches the

limitation wherein when said message information includes a file name of said document file and

a special character string, said process execution part sends out to said chat server, as an

utterance, a part of the content of a document file having said file name (col. 9, lines 1-10;

Murakami discloses that when multiple messages are to be sent to a participant, a list of these

messages are displayed on the user terminal).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention

to modify Manabe in view of Murakami so as to transmit only necessary information to a chat

participant. One would be motivated to do so to control network traffic.

As to claim 21, Manabe teaches the device of claim 19 above.

Manabe fails to teach the limitation wherein said process execution part registers one or

more of keywords included in the utterance, said message information, and at least one said

specified channel into said keyword registry table with them associated with one another.

However, Murakami teaches a system for displaying an electronic mail message related

to a statement submitted in an online chat session (see abstract). Murakami teaches the

limitation wherein said process execution part registers one or more of keywords included in the

utterance, said message information, and at least one said specified channel into said keyword

registry table with them associated with one another (col. 5, lines 2-25; Murakami discloses that

keywords, e-mail messages and user connection information are stored).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention

to modify Manabe in view of Murakami so as to keep track of the source of the message. One

would be motivated to do so to ensure the correct transmission of sender information with the

message.

As to claim 23, Manabe teaches the device of claim 22 above.

Manabe fails to teach the limitation wherein said process execution part requests a

predetermined back-end server to transmit a message included in the utterance to a contact

address of an addressee specified in the utterance.

However, Murakami teaches a system for displaying an electronic mail message related to a statement submitted in an online chat session (see abstract). Murakami teaches the limitation wherein said process execution part requests a predetermined back-end server to transmit a message included in the utterance to a contact address of an addressee specified in the utterance. (col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 4; Murakami discloses that a mail server transmits messages to chat participants).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Manabe in view of Murakami so as to distribute messages using a back-end mail server. One would be motivated to do so to ensure that messages transmitted during the communication are available for future chat sessions.

As to claim 24, Manabe teaches the device of claim 23 above.

Manabe fails to teach the limitation of a contact registry table for registering said addressee, a communication method and a contact address in a mutually associated manner, wherein said process execution part requests a back-end server to transmit said message to said contact address that is associated in said contact registry table with said addressee specified in said utterance, the back-end server being selected in accordance with the communication method that is associated with said addressee in the contact registry table.

However, Murakami teaches a system for displaying an electronic mail message related to a statement submitted in an online chat session (see abstract). Murakami teaches the limitation a back-end server to transmit said message to said contact address that is associated in said contact registry table with said addressee specified in said utterance, the back-end server being selected in accordance with the communication method that is associated with said

addressee in the contact registry table (col. 6, line 61 – col. 25, line 4; Murakami discloses that a

mail server transmits messages to chat participants using stored contact information).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention

to modify Manabe in view of Murakami so as to store contact information for chat participants.

One would be motivated to do so to ensure that mail recipients get their messages.

As to claim 25, Manabe teaches the device of claim 24 above.

Manabe fails to teach the limitation wherein said process execution part registers an

addressee, a communication method, and a contact address that are included in the utterance into

said contact registry table with them associated with one another.

However, Murakami teaches a system for displaying an electronic mail message related

to a statement submitted in an online chat session (see abstract). Murakami teaches the

limitation of registering an addressee, a communication method, and a contact address that are

included in the utterance into said contact registry table with them associated with one another

(col. 7, lines 5–25; Murakami discloses that stored user information contains names and

addresses for communication by e-mail).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention

to modify Manabe in view of Murakami so as to store contact information for chat participants.

One would be motivated to do so to ensure that mail recipients get their messages.

Claims 6 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Manabe et al., in view of Murakami, and further in view of Brunson et al. (U.S. Patent No.

6,038,296)

Manabe teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a system and method for

promoting smooth communications in a chat system (see abstract).

As to claim 6, Manabe teaches the device of claim 5 above, wherein when said

determination part determines that an utterance from a client device satisfies another

predetermined sentence condition, said process execution part sends out to said chat server a

message to be forwarded to the client device as an utterance (col. 7, lines 44-57; Manabe

discloses that a reporting module sends text messages based on user status).

Manabe fails to teach the limitation of the process execution means thereafter deleting the

message sent out and its forwarding address from said message table.

However, Brunson teaches of an internet/intranet user interface for a multimedia

messaging system (see abstract). Brunson teaches the limitation of deleting the message sent out

and its forwarding address (col. 6, lines 12-49; Brunson discloses a "send-it" process that deletes

message files after they have been delivered).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention

to modify Manabe in view of Brunson so as to delete unwanted messages. One would be

motivated to do so to efficiently utilize storage space in a database.

As to claim 9, Manabe teaches the device of claim 6 above.

Manabe fails to teach the limitation wherein the process execution part sends out, as an

utterance, to said chat server messages that are currently registered in said message table among

messages included in utterances that had been transmitted by said client in the past.

However, Murakami teaches a system for displaying an electronic mail message related

to a statement submitted in an online chat session (see abstract). Murakami teaches the

limitation of sending out to said chat server messages that are currently registered in said

message table among messages included in utterances that had been transmitted by said client in

the past (col. 9, lines 1-2; Murakami discloses that a plurality of existing e-mail messages may be

presented to the users).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention

to modify Manabe in view of Murakami so as to send all messages intended for a participant in

the chat session. One would be motivated to do so to ensure that the recipients receive all

messages that were sent to them while they were disconnected from the chat session.

As to claim 10, Manabe teaches the device of claim 6 above.

Manabe fails to teach the limitation wherein said process execution part deletes messages

included in utterances that had been transmitted by said client in the past from said message

table.

However, Brunson teaches of an internet/intranet user interface for a multimedia

messaging system (see abstract). Brunson teaches the limitation of deleting the messages

included in utterances that had been transmitted by said client in the past from said message

table. (col. 6, lines 12-49; Brunson discloses a "send-it" process that deletes message files after

they have been delivered).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention

to modify Manabe in view of Brunson so as to delete unwanted messages. One would be

motivated to do so to efficiently utilize storage in a database.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manabe et al. in

view of Hirakawa et al., and further in view of DeSimone et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,212,548)

Manabe teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a system and method for

promoting smooth communications in a chat system (see abstract).

As to claim 12, Manabe teaches the device of claim 1 above.

Manabe fails to teach the limitation wherein when an utterance from client monitored by

said monitoring part includes a keyword indicating a termination of a chat, recording

identification information of the client and the keyword spoken by the client, and sending out to

said chat server, message information indicating whether a client whose identification

information is included in said utterance is still accessing said chat server in accordance with the

content recorded.

However, Hirakawa teaches of a human interface system constructed by connecting

systems containing a plurality of computers via a network (see abstract). Hirakawa teaches the

limitation wherein when an utterance from client monitored by said monitoring part includes a

keyword indicating a termination of a chat, recording the keyword spoken by the client (col. 24,

lines 13-28; Hirakawa discloses a speech recognition process that analyzes an input such as

"Goodbye" as an End Request).

Hirakawa fails to teach the limitation of recording identification information of the client

and sending out to said chat server, message information indicating whether a client whose

identification information is included in said utterance is still accessing said chat server in

accordance with the content recorded

However, DeSimone teaches a system in which a plurality of users communicate in a

plurality of real-time chat sessions (see abstract). DeSimone teaches the limitation of recording

identification information of the client and, sending out to said chat server, message information

indicating whether a client whose identification information is included in said utterance is still

accessing said chat server in accordance with the content recorded (col. 11, line 49-col. 13, line

35; DeSimone discloses the verification and broadcast of a participant's request to leave a chat

room).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention

to modify Manabe in view of Hirakawa, and further in view of DeSimone so as to monitor user

participation in real time. One would be motivated to do so to keep track of channel availability.

Claims 26-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manabe et

al., in view of Colbath et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,618,726)

Manabe teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a system and method for

promoting smooth communications in a chat system (see abstract).

As to claim 26, Manabe teaches the device of claim 22 above.

Manabe fails to teach the limitation wherein said process execution part requests a

predetermined back-end server to search for items in accordance with letters included in the

utterance.

However, Colbath teaches of a voice activated and operated Internet web browser where

voiced utterances are input to a speech recognition program (see abstract). Colbath teaches the

limitation of searching for items in accordance with letters included in the utterance (col. 3, lines 24-43; Colbath discloses forming search string words based on the position of each letter).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Manabe in view of Colbath by identifying words in speech through the analysis of the letters it contains. One would be motivated to do so to increase the accuracy of detecting the correct search terms for the user.

As to claim 27, Manabe teaches the device of claim 26 above.

Manabe fails to teach the limitation of a dictionary server to translate the letters included in said utterance.

However, Colbath teaches of a voice activated and operated Internet web browser where voiced utterances are input to a speech recognition program (see abstract). Colbath teaches the limitation of using a dictionary server to translate the letters included in said utterance (col. 3, lines 24-43; Colbath discloses forming search string words based on the position of each letter).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Manabe in view of Colbath by identifying words in speech through letter analysis. One would be motivated to do so to increase the accuracy of detecting the correct search terms for the user.

As to claim 28, Manabe teaches the device of claim 26 above.

Manabe fails to teach the limitation of requesting a portal site to search for a URL of a home page relating to letters included in said utterance, converting a response from the portal site to an HTML document and sending out a URL of the HTML document.

However, Colbath teaches of a voice activated and operated Internet web browser where voiced utterances are input to a speech recognition program (see abstract). Colbath teaches the limitation of requesting a portal site to search for a URL of a home page relating to letters included in said utterance, converting a response from the portal site to an HTML document and sending out a URL of the HTML document (col. 2, line 61 – col. 3, line 23; Colbath discloses that search string words are used to retrieve web pages or documents).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Manabe in view of Colbath so as to provide the ability to search for web pages. One would be motivated to do so to offer a wider range of services to chat participants.

As to claim 29, Manabe teaches the device of claim 26 above.

Manabe fails to teach the limitation of searching for personal information based on a search condition included in said utterance.

However, Colbath teaches of a voice activated and operated Internet web browser where voiced utterances are input to a speech recognition program (see abstract). Colbath teaches the limitation of searching for personal information based on a search condition included in said utterance (col. 4, lines 1-14; Colbath discloses processing utterances to retrieve information on the names of people).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Manabe in view of Colbath so as to provide the ability to search for personal information. One would be motivated to do so to offer a wider range of services to chat participants.

Claims 30-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manabe et

al., in view of Hara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,438,611)

Manabe teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a system and method for

promoting smooth communications in a chat system (see abstract).

As to claim 30, Manabe teaches the device of claim 22 above.

Manabe fails to teach the limitation of requesting a calendar server that is managing a

place specified in the utterance to reserve said place for a time specified in the utterance.

However, Hara teaches a performance system involving a plurality of parts that can be

conducted among a plurality of apparatuses by means of a network (see abstract). Hara teaches

the limitation of requesting a calendar server that is managing a place specified to reserve said

place for a time specified (col. 15, line 54 – col. 16, line 3; Hara discloses a process for reserving

a performance room for a specified time).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention

to modify Manabe in view of Hara so as to provide the ability to make reservations. One would

be motivated to do so to offer a wider range of services to chat participants.

As to claim 31, Manabe teaches the device of claim 22 above.

Manabe fails to teach the limitation of checking the reservation status of a facility for a

time specified.

However, Hara teaches a performance system involving a plurality of parts that can be

conducted among a plurality of apparatuses by means of a network (see abstract). Hara teaches

the limitation of checking the reservation status of a facility for a time specified (col. 9, lines 10-

26; Hara discloses that a reservation database contains information on reservation status).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention

to modify Manabe in view of Hara so as to provide the ability to check reservation status. One

would be motivated to do so to offer a wider range of services to chat participants.

Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manabe et al. in

view of Murakami, and further in view of Payne et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,021,433).

Manabe teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a system and method for

promoting smooth communications in a chat system (see abstract).

As to claim 33, Manabe teaches the device of claim 1 above.

Manabe fails to teach the limitation of an alarm table for storing an alarm message and a

specified date/time associated with each other; registering an alarm message and a specified time

that are included in the utterance into said alarm table; and wherein when a current time reaches

said specified time, sending out to said chat server, as an utterance, said alarm message that has

been registered in said alarm table as corresponding to said specified time.

However, Murakami teaches a system for displaying an electronic mail message related

to a statement submitted in an online chat session (see abstract). Murakami teaches the

limitation of a table for storing a message and a specified date/time associated with each other,

and registering a message and a specified time that are included in the utterance into said table

(col. 11, lines 49-61; Murakami discloses that e-mail messages are stored in mailboxes until a

designated time is reached), and

wherein when a current time reaches said specified time, sending out to said chat server,

as an utterance, said message that has been registered in said table as corresponding to said

specified time (col. 11, lines 49-61; Murakami discloses that e-mail messages are displayed on user terminals when a designated time is reached).

Manabe fails to teach the limitation of the message being an alarm message.

However, Payne teaches a system for data communication connecting on-line networks with on-line and off-line computers (see abstract). Payne teaches the limitation of sending an alarm message at a specified time (col. 30, 35-53; Payne discloses sending an alarm at a predetermined time).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Manabe in view of Murakami and Payne so as to alert users at a predetermined time. One would be motivated to do so to eliminate the need for users to manually keep track of certain information such as upcoming events, forums and chat sessions.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lesa Kennedy whose telephone number is (703)305-8865. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30 – 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (703)308-7562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)305-3719.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-3900.

Lesa Kennedy
Art Unit 2157
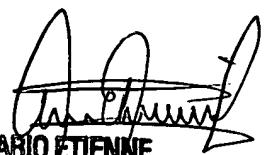
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